

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 CPR-01 PRS-01

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7860

INFO AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PDIP GR US

SUBJECT: OFFICIAL GREETINGS ON 154TH ANNIVERSARY OF  
GREEK INDEPENDENCE

1. THIS MARCH 25 GREECE CELEBRATES 154TH ANNIVERSARY OF ITS NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE. EMBASSY BELIEVES THIS YEAR'S CELEBRATION, ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS, GIVES USG OPPORTUNITY TO REAFFIRM ITS TRADITIONAL FRIENDSHIP AND SUPPORT FOR GREEK NATION. FOR PROTOCOL REASONS, GREETING FROM PRESIDENT FORD SHOULD BE SENT TO PRESIDENT STASSINOPOULOS, RATHER THAN PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS. EMBASSY ALSO BELIEVES IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE FOR SECRETARY TO SEND MESSAGE TO FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS. SUGGESTED TEXTS FOR THESE MESSAGES FOLLOW.

2. BEGIN TEXT OF SUGGESTED DRAFT MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT TO PRESIDENT MICHAEL STASSINOPOULOS:  
DEAR MR. PRESIDENT:  
IT IS WITH SPECIAL PLEASURE THAT I EXTEND WARMEST CONGRATULATIONS TO YOU ON THE OCCASION OF THE 154TH ANNIVERSARY OF GREEK INDEPENDENCE. THE RESTORATION OF DEMOCRATIC RULE TO THE COUNTRY WHERE DEMOCRACY WAS BORN IS CAUSE FOR SPECIAL JOY NOT ONLY AMONG THE PEOPLE OF GREECE BUT AMONG PEOPLES EVERYWHERE WHO SHARE GREEK IDEALS OF REPRESENTATIVE

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GOVERNMENT AND INDIVIDUAL FREEDOM. THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

HAVE RENEWED ADMIRATION FOR YOUR PEOPLE ON THIS DAY MARKING  
THE SUCCESS OF THE GREEK STRUGGLE FOR INDEPENDENCE. I AM  
CONFIDENT THAT THIS ANNIVERSARY MARKS A NEW FLOWERING  
OF THE GREEK REPUBLIC AND THE BEGINNING OF AN ERA OF  
NATIONAL PEACE AND PROSPERITY FOR THE GREEK PEOPLE. END TEXT.

3. BEGIN TEXT OF SUGGESTED DRAFT MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY  
TO FOREIGN MINISTER DIMITRI BITSIOS: DEAR MR. MINISTER:  
ON THIS PARTICULARLY SIGNIFICANT ANNIVERSARY OF GREEK  
NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE, AMERICANS SHARE YOUR JOY THAT  
GREECE IS ONCE MORE FREE AND A PROUD MEMBER OF THE FAMILY OF  
DEMOCRATIC NATIONS. NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE AND  
PERSONAL LIBERTY HAVE BEEN LIVELY PASSIONS OF OUR TWO  
PEOPLES THROUGHOUT THEIR LONG AND INTERTWINED HISTORIES.  
WE SHARE AS WELL A COMMITMENT TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF A  
PEACEFUL WORLD IN WHICH THE RELATIONS AMONG STATES ARE  
ANIMATED BY THE SAME RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMO-  
CRATIC PRINCIPLES THAT GUIDE OUR TWO SOCIETIES. I LOOK  
FORWARD TO CONTINUING TO WORK WITH YOU AND YOUR COLLEAGUES  
IN OUR DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS TO PRESERVE AND ENHANCE WHAT  
BOTH OUR PEOPLES CHERISH. END TEXT.

KUBISCH

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** COMMEMORATIVE CELEBRATIONS  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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